

NATIVE LESBIANS SPEAK

A Benefit Evening for the
Kahn-Tineta Horn Survival Fund*

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 1991 - 7:30 p.m.

1455 de Maisonneuve West
Hall Building, Room 767
Suggested Donation: \$2 - \$10

Chrystos is a Native American of the Menominee Nation, born in 1946 and raised in San Francisco. A political activist and speaker, as well as an artist and writer, she is self-educated. Her writing has appeared in numerous journals and anthologies such as This Bridge Called My Back. In 1988, Chrystos published Not Vanishing, a collection of passionate and vital poetry. Her tireless work is directed at better understanding how issues of colonialism, genocide, class and gender affect the lives of women and Native people. She has toured extensively in the U.S. as a speaker on issues of racism and the struggles of Native peoples. For the past ten years Chrystos has made Bainbridge Island in the Pacific Northwest her home.

Beth Brant (Degonwadonti) was born in 1941. She is a Bay of Quinte Mohawk from Deseronto, Ontario. She has been writing since the age of forty and her work has appeared in numerous Native and feminist journals, as well as anthologies in Canada and the United States. She is the author of Mohawk Trail, a collection of prose and poetry and the editor of A Gathering of Spirit, a collection by North American Indian women. She is currently working on a collection of short stories, Food and Spirits. Beth teaches creative writing and will soon begin work on editing an anthology on Native lesbian literature and art. She is the mother of three daughters and grandmother of two grandsons, and lives in Detroit with her partner of twelve years, Denise.

Doreen Silversmith (Two Feathers) is of the Lower Cayuga/Onondaga Nation of the Iroquois Confederacy, and a band member of the Six Nations of the Grand River Reserve near Brantford, Ontario. Doreen is a poet and short story writer and a founding member of the Women's Coalition Against Racism and Police Violence and the Indigenous Women's Coalition in Toronto. She is a long time Native activist and freedom fighter and carries her politics of sobriety into all her work.

* Kahn-Tineta Horn will also speak; see reverse for details.

Wheelchair Accessible

Hearing Interpretation will be provided by ASL students.

Childcare - please reserve, see # below.

This event sponsored by the Lesbian Studies Coalition of Concordia.
For more information, please call: 848-7474 and leave a message.

Survival Fund for Kahn-Tineta Horn

by Lynn Smyth

Kahn-Tineta Horn, a fifty one year old Mohawk native, was raised on the Kanehsatake and Akwesasne reserves. Since the 1960's she has been a strong and prominent spokesperson for her people and for all native peoples across Canada. During the past twenty years Kahn-Tineta has raised four daughters in Ottawa and had a seventeen year career in the federal government.

On August 17th of this year, she returned to Kanehsatake with two of her daughters, thinking she could help solve the crisis that had endangered so many of her relatives and friends.

When the army advanced, she ended up in the treatment centre as an advisor. She was present at the signing of the initial agreement with the



federal and provincial governments, the Quebec Police Force and the army.

She and her daughters stayed behind the lines until they walked out en-mass in September. Within a week, her ex-husband (a non-native lawyer for Indian Affairs) had (with the help of a court order) taken her four year old

daughter from her first day at school. Kahn-Tineta was fired from her job at Indian Affairs. For the first time in her life she is collecting unemployment insurance. She has also been charged with initiating a riot, for staying with her people in the treatment centre. She has lost her appeal for the reinstatement of her job.

Fortunately, she won her daughter back after some weeks, which renewed her faith in our justice system. She now faces the Oka criminal charges and the continuing fight for the return of her position at the Department of Indian Affairs. Kahn-Tineta needs our help to survive. The bizarre Oka tragedy has all but destroyed her family, her livelihood, and self esteem.

The "K. Horn Survival Fund" has been set up at: The Ottawa Womens Credit Bureau, 210 Bank Street, Ottawa, Ontario K2P 1W8. The account number is 0069328, for those who wish to help her financially weather the months ahead.

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Lynn Smyth is an Alderperson in the city of Ottawa.